

# COUNTIES OWE THE STATE

State Accountant To Check The Accounts Between The Two.

WILL BENEFIT SCHOOL FUND.

George E. Cole When Made State Accountant Will Do The Terret Act. He Knows How.

Topeka, June 30.—The state accountant, soon to be appointed by Governor Bailey, will be given something to do besides loafing around the state house and drawing his pay. In the past all that a state accountant did was to hang around the state house and gossip and occasionally check up the accounts of some state officer or board. Governor Stanley saw what a farce it was and abolished the office. The legislature last winter revived the place but the governor hasn't yet named the accountant. It is understood that George E. Cole will be appointed just as soon as his job as receiver of the Kansas Mutual gives out.

The state has all sorts of dealings with the various counties and the new state accountant will be put to work checking up the accounts between the state and counties. This means a lot of hard work but the state will no doubt profit immensely by it. Assistant State Auditor James Nation says, in his opinion, the permanent school fund will be benefited to the extent of \$50,000 or more by it.

"Under the present system of keeping accounts it is impossible to tell how much money is due the school fund from various western counties for rental and sale of school lands," said he. "All the record we have of sales and rentals is what the county

officers send in. Many of them are very negligent and make only partial reports to the auditor.

"An accountant could make an abstract of our books and then compare them with the records in each county. I am sure that in most cases he would find a balance due the state school fund. Several of the western county superintendents have evolved an expensive way of appraising lands. In some instances the cost of appraising the land exceeds what the state gets for it. The state accountant could investigate this 'graft' and adopt some method of stopping it. He could also pick up a lot of money for the state by checking up the state tax accounts. I believe that he would find at least \$50,000 that could be covered into the state treasury. Some counties have invented a graft in the matter of refund which enables them to beat the state out of considerable money. I know of one county that has worked the graft for several years. That is Barber county. As a result it has beaten the state out of an average of \$1,000 a year. Under the law the state gives a county a rebate on its uncollected tax on personal property. Barber county has been including the uncollected tax on town lots and lands in its claim for a refund and has always got it. It put in a claim this year for a \$1,100 refund. We wrote to the county clerk for additional information about the claim. He was a new man and wasn't 'on' and gave the snap away. Doubtless other counties have used other methods, some of them unintentionally and others on purpose, to cut down the amount of taxes due the state. It will keep an accountant busy, but he will bring results."

Conference Agent Manchuria. Oyster Bay, July 1.—President Roosevelt manifested the deepest interest in the dispatch from Pekin announcing a conference of Russian officials at Port Arthur on the Manchurian question. He made no comment upon it for publication. It was the first news of the proposed conference he had received but was fully alive to its importance. The president is in close touch, by telegraph, with the state department and any developments of concern in foreign affairs will be transmitted promptly to him by Secretary Hay.

Washington.—In the negotiations with China for a commercial treaty this country has been insistent on the opening of the ports of Manchuria and the new treaty appears to have given a more hopeful feeling in that direction.

Oil Tank Farm. Topeka, July 1.—The Standard Oil Company has purchased a 150-acre farm near Neodesha for the purpose of storing crude oil from the oil fields of Southeastern Kansas. It will be known as the "oil tank farm." The company will build large tanks all over the property. Several tanks from the Texas oil field, which is falling in production, are being moved to the "tank farm." In addition to establishing the "tank farm" the company proposes to extend its pipe lines to cover the entire oil area.

Propose to Straighten the Kaw. Topeka, July 1.—Congressman Miller spent a day at St. Marys in conference with the people of that section about the proposal to have the Kaw river straightened. The river is very crooked in the vicinity of St. Marys and Mr. Miller will ask congress to send engineers to see what can be done. The Kaw river is a navigable stream and congress, Mr. Miller says, may be induced to give it attention.

Passengers Stood On Seats. Ardmore, I. T., June 29.—Passengers on the northbound Santa Fe report a thrilling experience near Haskell, south of Ardmore, when the train ran into a wind and rain storm equaling a cloudburst, which did great damage to crops. Several farm houses were unroofed, but no one injured so far as can be learned, with the exception of Engineer McCarthy of the passenger train, who was severely cut about the arms by the glass window of the cab breaking. The train, which was held in a cut until the storm passed over, was flooded, the passengers standing on the seats for some time.

Porto Rico Cotton. San Juan, P. R., June 29.—Five cotton gins have arrived here from the United States and will be immediately installed. They are the first gins to reach Porto Rico in forty years. The cotton plantations now cover upwards of 11,000 acres and the area is being increased weekly. Willis Sweet of Idaho is sworn in as attorney general of Porto Rico.

Flooded Sugar For Hoes. Kansas City, June 30.—There are 20,000 hoes of bees about Independence, Mo., and the owners are buying up all the sugar they can get hold of. They bought twenty cars of sugar that were in the flood and condemned by the health department and they are looking for more. It makes good feed for the bees, and is harmless either to the bees or the honey.

Alfred Miller Hoyt, one of the thirteen survivors of the original members of the Union League died last week.

The American Water Works association at its meeting in Detroit, decided to hold its next convention in St. Louis in 1904.

Coal Fleets On Ohio River. Pittsburgh, June 29.—The recent rains have resulted in a coal boating stage of water and the coal operators are preparing to send south one of the largest shipments in years. It is expected that 7,500,000 bushels will have left the Pittsburgh harbor soon. There are 25,000,000 bushels of coal awaiting shipment.

The ranchmen of the Bridger Creek country in Montana are fearful of a grasshopper plague. A large area of range country seems likely to be stripped bare of all vegetation.

A SHORT LESSON IN FINANCE.



—New York Herald.

## Where Postal Funds Go

Tons of Supplies, not Ordered, Lay in Milwaukee Postoffice.

Milwaukee, Wis., July 1.—Evidence in the Milwaukee postoffice bearing upon the postal investigation came to light in that office. Stored away in one corner of the basement is a big pile of Groff fasteners that were sent to Milwaukee for some unknown reason and without requisition about fourteen years ago.

There are two and one-quarter tons of the fasteners in the basement of the federal building which will probably never be used unless they are shipped to Washington.

They came during the early years of the late Postmaster General Porter's term. No one ordered them so far as it has been ascertained. There are 1,500 sets of fasteners, each set weighing three pounds. The government paid, contract price, \$1.25 per set. There is also stored in the basement a lot of galvanized iron mail boxes that are made in Michigan. They were received about two years ago without requisition.

Payee Will Not Resign. Washington, June 30.—The president has absolute confidence in Postmaster General Payne, and has no thought that he will leave the cabinet, said Senator Hanna after quite an extended visit to the White house. He added:

"The president is satisfied with the work Mr. Payne is doing and appreciates his integrity and executive ability. Mr. Payne has no thought of resigning, but if he did, his resignation would not be accepted by the president."

A Model City.

New York, June 29.—It is reported here that George W. Vanderbilt has acquired a large tract of land between Hendersonville, and Brevard, N. C., about 30 miles from Asheville, and will shortly begin the construction of a model manufacturing city, all of which will be completed and ready for occupancy before anyone will be permitted to settle there. A complete system of water works, electric lighting, heat and power will be installed.

Warning About Watermelons.

Topeka, July 1.—The water melon crop of Kansas will be exceedingly short this season. Watermelons are a mostly raised along the rivers and the floods destroyed the crop. Ottawa physicians advise people not to eat home watermelons grown in the flooded district this year, claiming they will be unhealthful.

New Horse Wins The Derby.

Chicago, June 29.—The Picket, a horse that never before flashed first past the post, won the American Derby. He set the pace every step of the distance, was never challenged, and won in a gallop by six lengths. He ran the derby distance, 1 1/4 miles, faster than it was ever run before in the race. His time was 2:33. Claude the winner of three derbies was second. Barnaby, the Cincinnati candidate, was third.

Statue of General Hooker.

Boston, June 27.—At the dedication of the equestrian statue of General Joseph Hooker on the state house grounds, preceding the unveiling a great parade was held in which scores of the most distinguished military men of America participated together with regular army, cavalry and infantry, marines and blue jackets from the coast division of the Atlantic squadron; veterans who served with Hooker, members of the Massachusetts department G. A. R., veterans of the Spanish war, and the Boston school regiment.

Funston In Alaska Again.

Washington, June 29.—General Funston, commanding the Department of the Columbia, has informed the War Department that he has left for Alaska for an inspection of the posts in that territory. He will visit Fort Liscomb, Skagway, Egbert, Gibbon, St. Michael and Davis.

The ranchmen of the Bridger Creek country in Montana are fearful of a grasshopper plague. A large area of range country seems likely to be stripped bare of all vegetation.

## Cantankerous Kaw

May Prove Disastrous To Some Of The Temporary Bridges.

Kansas City, June 30.—The Kaw river has been rising at a rapid rate and by reason of that fact the pontoon bridge, which was constructed at the foot of Orville avenue in Kansas City, Kans., is disabled so that it cannot be used. Between 300 and 500 persons were left on the east bank of the river until after midnight waiting to be rowed over in skiffs.

About twenty-five skiffs were employed in conveying passengers over the river, but the crowds carried on the Fifth street car line were so great that the fishermen could not accommodate all. Most of the people had come to Kansas City, Mo., early in the evening with the intention of returning by way of the pontoon bridge. When they reached the river, however, they were met by an officer who informed them the bridge had been impaired.

None of the bridge washed away, but the engineers in charge removed two spans to save it from drift, which was fast collecting on the upper side.

The river is far below the danger line as yet, and there is nothing to cause serious alarm. However, a rise of two feet more, it is thought, would prove disastrous to some of the temporary bridges.

Timber Lands Seized By Fraud.

Portland, Ore., June 30.—The examination of Miss Marie Ware, formerly United States land commissioner at Eugene, and Horace G. McKinley, a timber land operator, on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States out of public lands is in progress before United States Commissioner Sladen. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of S. A. P. Duter, who is now supposed to be in St. Paul. It is alleged that he was concerned in the conspiracy to defraud the government. It is known that hundreds of fraudulent entries of public land have been made in Oregon in the past two years and that thousands of acres of fine timber lands have been secured by speculators.

Columbia Will Ratify.

Washington, June 29.—Representatives in Washington of the Panama canal company have received cable dispatches from Bogota to the effect that the sentiment in Colombia of intense opposition to the ratification of the Panama canal treaty has undergone a great change. While there is much opposition the dispatches say the prospects are for earlier ratification of the treaty without amendment than was expected.

H. U. Mudge President.

St. Joseph, Mo., June 27.—H. U. Mudge, general manager of the Santa Fe railway, was chosen president of the St. Joseph Union Terminal Company here. Raymond Dupuy, general manager of the St. Joseph & Grand Island, was elected vice president. T. F. Vannatta was made secretary.

Natalie Gets Palace Property.

Vienna, June 30.—A dispatch from Belgrade says King Peter has notified Queen Natalie that he considers that all the property in the old palace belongs to her and that she can dispose of it as she pleases.

Newspaper Changes.

Topeka, June 29.—W. Y. Morgan will retire as state printer tomorrow evening. He will turn over the office to George A. Clark. He has sold his printing plant to Clark. Morgan will resume active editorial management of his paper, the Hutchinson News. Tom Cordry, who has been running the paper, will take editorial charge of the Salina Republican next Wednesday.

7,500 Pounds Garden Seeds by Mail.

Topeka, June 27.—Over 7,500 pounds of garden seeds were received in Topeka by mail for the benefit of the flood sufferers. This is the contribution of the United States Department of Agriculture to the relief fund. The seeds were turned over to the county commissioners for distribution.

At Minneapolis, Minn., M. W. Sarge, owner of Dan Patch and Directum, recently purchased by him, refused an offer of \$70,000 for the two horses. W. W. Gentry made the offer.

# HARVEST OF 5,709,485 ACRES

The General Condition Of Wheat

This Year Is Eighty-Nine Per Cent.

CROP, 100,000,000 BUSHEL.

Topeka, July 1.—Secretary F. D. Coburn, of the Kansas agricultural department, has issued a comprehensive report, showing the condition of the Kansas crops. It follows:

Reports from correspondents from well nigh every township in Kansas to the state board of agriculture relating to the growing crops, based on conditions existing June 30, summarized, indicate that the area of winter wheat that will be harvested, aggregates 5,709,485 acres, or 94.6 per cent of the total area sown, and the general average condition of this on the eve of harvest is 89 per cent, calling 100 an entirely satisfactory condition. Besides rating high in the more prominent wheat producers, many counties with lesser acreages report correspondingly high averages, thus indicating that wherever there is wheat to harvest its condition is quite uniformly excellent.

At approximately the same stage in the plant's development that year, the general average condition of the state's winter wheat in 1892 was 82, on 5,348,547 acres, which bore the largest crop in the state's history (90,333,095 bushels). This year's area that will be harvested, much of which is now cut,

is greater, and its average condition seven points higher. Weather conditions for the past ten days have been favorable for its rapid reaping. No threshing as yet has been done, and it is too early to definitely determine quality, but with few exceptions here and there, the heads are reported as well developed and filled.

Assessors' returns of acreage from sixty-five counties bear out the estimate of the board's correspondents last fall, that the area of winter wheat sown then was 3 to 4 per cent less than that from which the 1902 crop was taken, and these official figures substituted for the preliminary estimates in their respective counties make the state's total area sown 6,031,423 acres. Reporting earlier in the season, the prospect was represented as almost perfect, but the same correspondents now say that 5.4 per cent, or 321,937 acres, has been so damaged from various causes that it will not be cut. By far the greater part of this is in the flooded districts.

The spring wheat area is comparatively small and confined principally to the Northwestern counties, as usual, and its general average condition is 93.

Frauds By Seed Men.

Washington, June 29.—Secretary Wilson admits that the department is making an investigation and says: "We have known of these things in the department for some time, and we intend to probe them to the bottom. We believe that we have held up enough to reimburse the government for any losses that may have accrued. The case is in the hands of the attorney of the department of agriculture, and it is pending before the court of claims. It is claimed that the government has been defrauded out of thousands of dollars in seed contracts."

Special Session Of Congress.

Washington, June 25.—Monday, November 9, is the date tentatively set by the president for the assembling of congress in extra session for action by the house on the Cuban treaty and the discussion of such matters as may be submitted. This will give congress nearly a month to work in before the date to the regular session of that body. The first Monday in December, the time fixed by law for regular sessions to begin, falls on December 7 this year. By beginning on November 9 there is believed to be plenty of time to dispose of the Cuban treaty matter.

Heavy Rains at Topeka.

Topeka, June 27.—A rain so tremendous in volume that it was practically a cloudburst fell over Topeka about midnight of Wednesday. A number of residents in South Topeka were compelled to leave their homes and flee to higher ground, while a few of the smaller houses were washed from their foundations. Soldier creek which was such a factor in destroying North Topeka recently, came up with a rush and is flowing over the Kansas avenue bridge over that creek. The Kaw also rose considerably.

About Steel Bar Trade.

Pittsburg, June 30.—The Associated Manufacturers of Steel Bars, in session here unanimously reaffirmed the present prices of \$1.60 per hundred pounds for Bessemer bars for Pittsburg. The manufacturers reported orders plentiful and trade conditions good.

Hook Will Await Confirmation.

Topeka, July 1.—Judge Hook has decided not to resign as district judge until he is confirmed as circuit judge next December. The president will probably not select a district judge until that time unless the fight becomes so aggravated here that he will want to end it early.

Earthquakes In Hungary.

Buda, Hungary, June 29.—Four violent earth shocks were felt here at 6 o'clock in the morning. Several houses in the suburbs collapsed and nearly all the buildings in the town were more or less damaged. The inhabitants of the place were panic stricken.

Grain Tax Repealed.

London, June 29.—When the house of commons went into committee on the budget bill Henry Chaplin moved for the repeal of the clause providing for the repeal of the grain tax. After a protracted discussion the motion was defeated, 419 to 32.

The Mexican government considers the Yaqui Indian troubles ended.

Attorney General Knox will not take up the selection of a successor to Judge Hook until the date is fixed for Judge Hook's retiring.

Cared For 20,000 People. Kansas City, Mo., June 29.—Charles Francis Adams of Boston has sent \$500 to the Kansas City, Kans., relief committee. This committee, which was organized to care for 20,000 homeless people for three weeks, has only \$30,000 remaining of the \$70,000 received. This balance will be expended in the purchase of household goods.

## MARKETS CORRECTED DAILY

| Kansas City.     |      |      |      |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 4.00 | 3.95 | 4.00 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.95 | 3.90 | 3.95 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.90 | 3.85 | 3.90 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.85 | 3.80 | 3.85 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.80 | 3.75 | 3.80 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.75 | 3.70 | 3.75 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.70 | 3.65 | 3.70 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.65 | 3.60 | 3.65 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.60 | 3.55 | 3.60 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.55 | 3.50 | 3.55 |

| Chicago Live Stock. |      |      |      |
|---------------------|------|------|------|
| NATIVE STEERS       | 5.10 | 5.05 | 5.10 |
| STOCKERS & FEEDERS  | 4.75 | 4.70 | 4.75 |
| TEXAS FEED STEERS   | 4.50 | 4.45 | 4.50 |
| HOGS                | 5.50 | 5.45 | 5.50 |

| Chicago Grain.   |      |      |      |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 4.00 | 3.95 | 4.00 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.95 | 3.90 | 3.95 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Hard | 3.90 | 3.85 | 3.90 |

| St. Louis Live Stock. |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| BEEVES                | 4.25 | 4.20 | 4.25 |
| HIFERS                | 3.25 | 3.20 | 3.25 |
| TEXAS STEERS          | 3.25 | 3.20 | 3.25 |

| Cotton.   |          |       |       |
|-----------|----------|-------|-------|
| LIVERPOOL | 6.92 1/2 | 6.90  | 6.95  |
| NEW YORK  | 13.25    | 13.20 | 13.30 |
| GALVESTON | 13.25    | 13.20 | 13.30 |

| Wichita Grain. |        |        |        |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| WHEAT          | Open   | High   | Low    |
| July           | 78 1/2 | 79 1/4 | 77 3/4 |
| Sept.          | 77 1/2 | 78 1/4 | 76 3/4 |
| Dec.           | 76 1/2 | 77 1/4 | 75 3/4 |

| CORN. |        |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| July  | 57 1/2 | 58 1/4 | 56 3/4 |
| Sept. | 56 1/2 | 57 1/4 | 55 3/4 |
| Dec.  | 55 1/2 | 56 1/4 | 54 3/4 |

| OATS. |        |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| July  | 34 1/2 | 35 1/4 | 33 3/4 |
| Sept. | 33 1/2 | 34 1/4 | 32 3/4 |
| Dec.  | 32 1/2 | 33 1/4 | 31 3/4 |

| Wichita Live Stock. |      |      |      |
|---------------------|------|------|------|
| HOGS                | 5.25 | 5.20 | 5.25 |
| CATTLE—STOCKERS     | 4.25 | 4.20 | 4.25 |
| CATTLE—FEEDERS      | 3.25 | 3.20 | 3.25 |
| HIFERS              | 3.25 | 3.20 | 3.25 |
| STEERS              | 3.25 | 3.20 | 3.25 |

## LATEST NEWS IN BRIEF.

All the London papers predict that parliament will pass the Irish land bill.

After fifty-two days of parching heat and forest fires, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have had seven-teen days in succession of rain.

There has been practically no auditing of the cash books and tax ledgers in the offices of the District of Columbia, of collector, assessor and auditor, for five years.

The Tennessee supreme court declares the Adams law constitutional. It provides for the abolition of all saloons in towns of 5,000 population, or under, upon the submission of the question to a popular vote.

Sheep scab is prevalent among the flocks in Wyoming. The chief of the inspectors' force of the U. S. bureau, says 75 per cent of the sheep in the sheep in the territory are affected.

Judge Oliver P. Shiras of the United States court for the Northern district of Iowa, announced that he will retire from the bench November next. He will be 70 years old in October.

The battleships Alabama, Illinois and Massachusetts and the cruiser Brooklyn, accompanied by the Mayflower as tender, have sailed for the Azores islands for the summer maneuvers.

J. Delamere has resigned as head of the car service of the Northern Pacific railroad after thirty years' active service. He invented the perfected boards used by several roads to keep records of cars.

The alumni of the University of Vermont propose to raise a centennial fund of \$1,000,000 for their alma mater to be presented to the university in June 1904, upon the celebration of its hundredth anniversary.

Special Agent Hendershot of the general land office has been investigating the fencing of public lands within the Dewey ranch in northwestern Kansas. He is instructed to place the facts in the hands of the U. S. District attorney.

Two drunken men in a freight elevator in Helix company's plant at Pittsburg, Pa., caused the falling of the car with 23 persons in it, 45 feet, to the cellar, and every one on the elevator was injured; with two probably fatal cases.